CAMBERWELL CHURCH.

IS an antient gothic building, of rough ſtones, with an embattled tower: on which is a cupola of wood, with a bell: and weathercock: the porch, is on the north ſide caſed with bricks, and covered with tiles, the front of it figuratively ornamented with bunches of grapes, and vine leaves. Within theſe few years there has been a conſiderable addition of building, to the South Weſt; of brickwork, and covered in with ſlates, with a commodious entrance, and neat wooden porch.

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Inſide are three ailes, a chancel, baptiſtery, veſtry room, and three galleries: which were erected, the church new paved, and glazed, and a vault ſunk, at the charge of the Pariſh: 1708, the roof is ſupported by light acute arches, ſpringing from well ſhaped pillars.

The Altar is railed in, and compoſed of wainſcot pannels, decorated with fluted Corinthian pillaſters and ornamented with cherubs: the pannels

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are inſcribed with the Pater-noſter, decalogue (above which are theſe Greek letters ΘΕΟΣ) and the creed. This altarpeice was erected, the chancel wainſcotted, raiſed and paved, at the ſole expence of Katherine Bowyer Widow: 1713, as is expreſſed on a neat white marble mantle fringed and taſſeled with gold. On the moulding from which it depends, ſtand two boys ſupporting the arms in a lozenge, Argent. a bend Verry. Bowyer, impaling St. John, a chief Gules. charged with two mullets.

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The window at the end of the North aile, is compoſed of pannels, four in the upper part and three below; in thoſe at top are painted four ſaints, each holding a coat of arms.

1 Or. three bars Gules. 2 Checky Or. and Gules. on a chief Argent. a lion paſs: guard: Sable. 3. Four coats impaling nine other coats, which are all ſo ſmall as not to be diſtinguiſhable below. 4 Argent. a chevron Gules. between three maſcles Sable. charged with as many martlets Or. The firſt of the three lower pannels hath in the upper part a ſaint like thoſe above holding a coat of arms * quarterly. Or three bars Gules and Argent. a chevron Gules. between three maſcles

* The ſame coat is on the grave ſtone of Francis Muſchamp, Eſq. in the North aile.

Sable.

Sable. charged with as many martlets Or. Below this is the upper half of the figure of a female crowned, having her head environed with a faints circle; her long golden treſſes hang on her ſhoulders and in her left hand ſhe has a ſword, with the blade downwards, in Styrpes Stowe this is ſaid to be "perhaps intended for Queen Elizabeth on her "firſt acceſſion to the Crown, when executions "ſo riſe in the former reign were happily ſtopt." But I cannot give into this opinion, becauſe the figure is not the leaſt like the repreſentations of that Queen, and the glaſs ſeems to be of a greater age, by the manner of workmanſhip. In the ſecond pannel is an atchievement with a front faced open helmet, the bearings are quarterly. Argent, a chevron Sable, charged with three bezants, and Sable. a bend engrailed between ſix cinqfoils Or. Underneath it is this date: 1678. This is more modern than either of the other pannels. The third hath the head of a female ſaint, and ſome other fragments of the ſame age as the firſt, in the upper part of which is a ſaint with the ſame eſcutcheon.

The North window of the chancel hath a coat of arms, over it a wolf ſejant on a ducal coronet, below the coat a large ſide faced cloſe helmet; the arms themſelves have undergone a tranſpoſition under ſome glazier, who was ignorant of heraldry,

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ſo that it is now impoſſible to blazon them by the rules of that ſcience. It is compoſed of the coats of Bowyer, St. John and ſome others. Styrpes Stowe ſays, "On the Eaſt window in the chancel, " is painted in the glaſs between the letters R. W. " a mitre, and a croſier ſtaff ſtruck through it " (which ſeems antient) for ſome biſhop of Win- " cheſter, probably a benefactor here." This window is now blocked up.

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The church is dedicated to St. Giles.

There are ſeveral curious monuments of the families of Scot, and Bowyer; on the South ſide of the chancel there is a very antient monument, with a gothic canopy of ſtone arches, but without inſcription; the inſcription of oldeſt date, is on a grave ſtone of black mable, at the upper end of the South aile, inlaid in braſs with the figure of a man in armour, having a plumed helmet, a long ſword, hanging from his girdle, and a dagger by his right ſide, the letters are old text.

Of your Charitie pray for the Soul of Edward Scot, one of the Sons of John Scot, Eſq. which Edward deceſſed the xxix Day of September, Anno Domini M° CCCC. xxxviii. On whoſe Soul, and all Chriſten Souls, Jeſu have Mercy.

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